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CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1955



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S. LUDKIN, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.



CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
Medomsley Road,  
Consett,  
Co. Durham.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE CONSETT URBAN  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of your area for the year 1955.

It has been a very satisfactory year so far as the state of health is concerned. There was an increase in the birth rate, a decrease in the mortality rate with a significant reduction in the number of deaths from Tuberculosis. There were no confirmed cases of Diphtheria or Poliomyelitis and there was a general reduction in all notifiable diseases except Measles. An epidemic of the latter disease started at the beginning of the year and over a period of months swept throughout the whole district, but fortunately, caused no deaths. I am pleased to report that the existing health services in the area have been well maintained. Special attention was given to the assessment of numbers of substandard properties, and to the maintenance of a high standard of Food Hygiene in shops, restaurants, public houses and manufacturing premises. Towards the end of the year, the depletion of our water supply caused some anxiety but no adverse effects on the health of the community.

The liaison both with the General Medical Practitioners and the Hospital Authorities has continued and for the sake of completeness, I have included some details of these services.

Finally, I wish to thank the Members of the Council for their encouragement and support and the Staff of the Department for their assistance and enthusiasm, particularly during the busy periods.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

STANLEY LUDKIN,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

## I. ENVIRONMENTAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (Acres) ... ..	10,042
Population (Estimated) ... ..	38,770
(i) Estimated number of children :—	
Under 5 years ... ..	3,069
5-14 years ... ..	6,600
Marriages in the Area during 1955 (Estimated) ... ..	317
Number of Inhabited houses ... ..	11,337
(i) Number of Aged Miners' Homes ... ..	56
(ii) Number of Council Aged Persons' Homes ... ..	215
(iii) Number of Council houses ... ..	3,040
(iv) Number of Houses and Shops combined ... ..	146
(v) Number of Lock-up Shops ... ..	300
(vi) Number of Occupied Houses under Closing or Demolition Orders ... ..	Nil
(vii) Estimated number of Houses unfit for human habitation ... ..	376
Rateable Value, April 1st, 1955 ... ..	£195,555
Net Product of a Penny Rate April 1st, 1955 ... ..	£745

## APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF EMPLOYED PERSONS

	Males	Females	Totals
(i) Metal Manufacture, etc. ...	4,895	319	5,214
(ii) Mining ... ..	4,001	77	4,078
(iii) Building, Brick Manufacture	1,256	76	1,332
(iv) Professional Services (Medicine, Education) ... ..	301	1,051*	1,352
(v) Distributive ... ..	299	457	756
(vi) Transport (Road, Rail, Haulage) ... ..	768	200	968
(vii) Chemicals, Bye-products, Coke, Tar ... ..	398	8	406
(viii) Vehicle building and Maintenance ... ..	237	22	259
(ix) Catering, Baking, etc. ...	68	50	118
(x) National & Local Government	288	74	362
(xi) Textile ... ..	8	151	159
	<u>12,519</u>	<u>2,485</u>	<u>15,004</u>

\* Includes hospital domestic staff.

## UNEMPLOYED AND DISABLED

	Males	Females	Totals
(i) Employable Persons out of work at the end of 1955 ... ..	90	66	156
(ii) Persons registered as Disabled ... ..	695	54	749
(iii) Percentage of Registered Disabled who were on the Tuberculosis Register at mid. 1955...	3.6%	18.5%	
(iv) Disabled persons trained ... ..	4	2	6
(v) No. of persons who have had special rehabilitation during 1955 ... ..	13	5	18
(vi) No. of T.B. persons who have had special rehabilitation during 1955 ... ..	3	1	4
(vii) Tuberculosis persons trained during 1955 ...	1	2	3
(viii) No. of Registered Blind Persons ... ..	—	—	62

## COMPARATIVE RATES

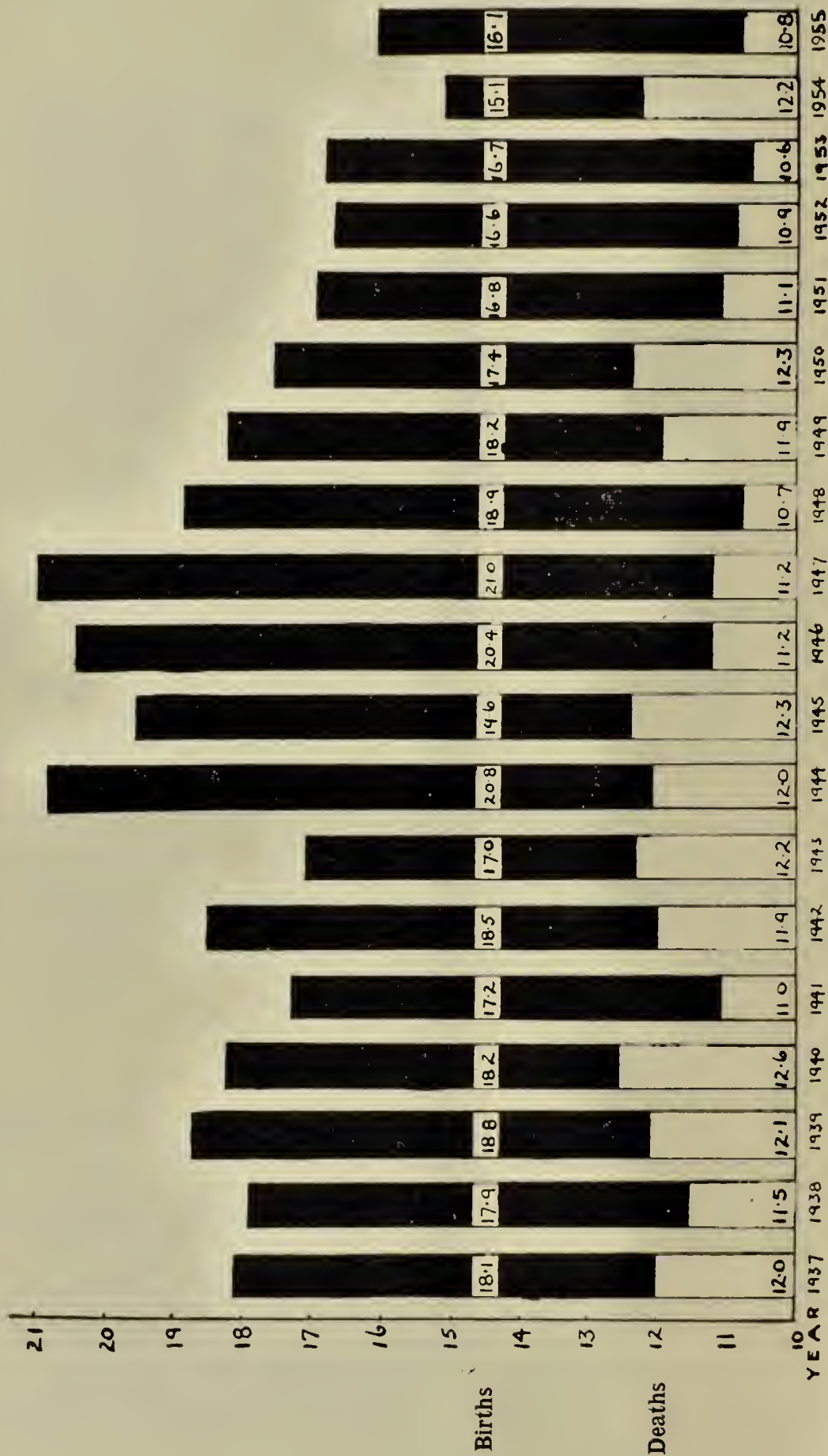
	England and Wales	Durham County	160 Smaller Towns	Consett
No. of Live Births per 1,000 population ... ..	15.0	17.2	14.9	16.1
No. of still births per 1,000 population ... ..	0.35	0.43	0.36	0.43
No. of maternal deaths per 1,000 live and still births	0.64	0.50	—	—
No. of infant deaths per 1,000 live births ... ..	24.9*	32.0	25.2	30.3
No. of deaths per 1,000 popu- lation ... ..	11.7	11.2	11.6	10.8
No. of Tuberculosis deaths per 1,000 population ...	0.14	0.20	0.13	0.07
No. of Pulmonary Tubercu- losis deaths per 1,000 population ... ..	0.13	0.18	—	0.07
No. of Non-Pulmonary Tub- erculosis deaths per 1,000 population ... ..	0.01	0.02	—	—

The standardised birth and death rates for the area, i.e., rates calculated in such a way that allowances are made for the age and sex composition of the population were 15.9 and 12.6 respectively.

\* Related Live Births.



# BIRTH AND DEATH RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION SINCE THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PRESENT URBAN AREA





## DETAILED VITAL STATISTICS

(See Appendix A)

### BIRTHS

(a) <b>Live Births</b>				<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Total</b>
Legitimate...	...	...	...	325	287	612
Illegitimate	...	...	...	8	7	15
				<u>333</u>	<u>294</u>	<u>627</u>
(b) <b>Still Births</b>						
Legitimate...	...	...	...	10	6	16
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	1	1
				<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>17</u>

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
No. of Still Births per 1,000 population ...	0.54	0.43	0.66	0.46	0.38	0.33	0.30	0.38	0.43
No. of Live and Still Births per 1,000 population	21.5	19.4	18.3	17.9	17.2	16.9	17.0	15.5	16.6
No. of Still Births per 1,000 Live and Still Births	25.0	22.8	35.4	25.6	22.2	19.7	18.1	24.9	26.3

During the year there were 17 still births as compared with 15 last year.

### DEATHS

	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Deaths during year ...	241	178	419
Deaths from Puerperal Causes ...	—	—	—

#### (a) Infant Deaths

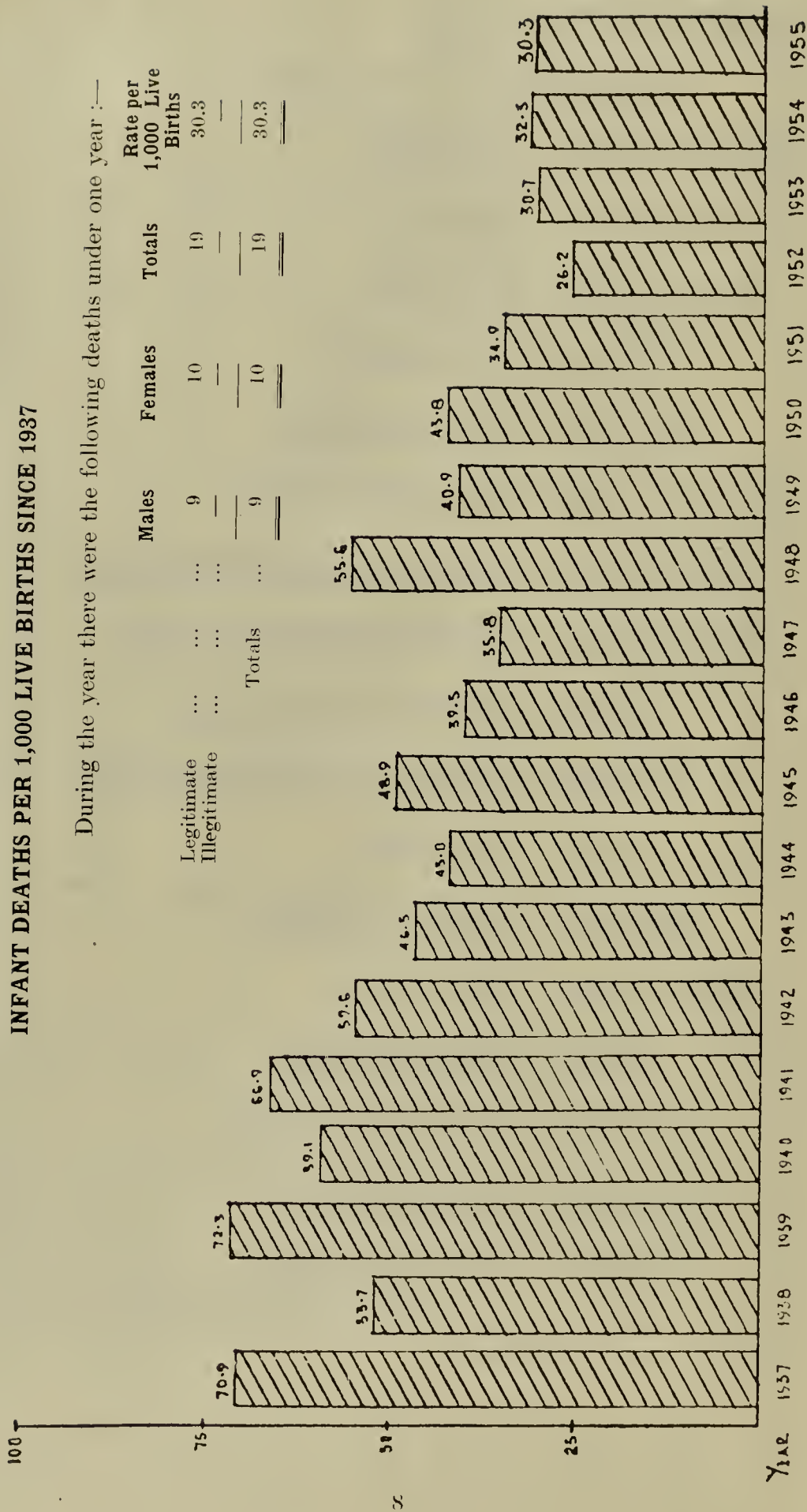
The number of infant deaths for the year was 19—the same as in the previous year. Twelve of these occurred within the first week of life and of the remaining seven, five died from Pneumonia, one from a congenital defect and one as the result of an accident.

The difference between still births and deaths occurring in the first week of life is often very slight and as the causes are frequently the same, the 17 recorded in the first category and the 12 in the second should therefore be grouped together when considering the problem of prevention. For a long time this group has been the hardcore of wasted infant life, and one cannot stress too strongly the importance of adequate advice, medical attention and care of expectant mothers together with the education of the nursing mother in the principles of child care, nutrition and prevention of infections.

# INFANT DEATHS PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS SINCE 1937

During the year there were the following deaths under one year :—

	Males		Females	Totals	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
Legitimate	...	9	10	19	30.3
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	9	10	19	30.3



(b) Deaths (General)	Male	Female	Total
ALL CAUSES ... ..	241	178	419
1. Cardio vascular :—			
(a) Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	31	37	68
(b) Coronary disease, angina ... ..	46	18	64
(c) Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	4	7	11
(d) Other heart diseases ... ..	25	22	47
(e) Other circulatory diseases ... ..	10	10	20
Totals ... ..	<u>116</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>210</u>
2. Chest Diseases :—			
(a) Pneumonia ... ..	13	12	25
(b) Bronchitis ... ..	14	3	17
(c) Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	3	1	4
Totals... ..	<u>30</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>46</u>
3. Cancer :—			
(a) Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	4	10	14
(b) Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... ..	13	2	15
(c) Malignant Neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	2	2
(d) Malignant Neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	2	2
(e) Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ... ..	24	13	37
Totals ... ..	<u>41</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>70</u>
4. Tuberculosis—all forms ... ..	3	—	3
5. Influenza ... ..	1	3	4
6. Syphilitic diseases ... ..	—	1	1
7. Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
8. Meningococcal infections ... ..	—	—	—
9. Other infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	1	1
10. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ... ..	1	—	1
11. Diabetes ... ..	2	3	5
12. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	6	—	6
13. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ... ..	1	1	2
14. Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	2	2	4
15. Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	3	—	3
16. Congenital Malformations ... ..	1	1	2
17. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	16	22	38
18. Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	4	—	4
19. All other accidents ... ..	11	5	16
20. Suicide ... ..	3	—	3

The main causes of death were diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System, Cancer, Pneumonia and Bronchitis in that order.

One can feel very happy that so many diseases which killed or maimed people twenty or thirty years ago have almost disappeared and that our chances of living to a ripe old age are far better than they used to be, but there are still one or two diseases which are causing some anxiety. For example, again this year there has been a large number of deaths from Coronary Thrombosis, and again the brunt of this disease has fallen on males. The factors influencing its occurrence are under active investigation and while a number of reasons for the recent increase have been put forward the stage has not yet been reached when one can be certain of the prejudicial influences and so adopt appropriate preventive measures.

In the case of Cancer of the Lung, each year over the last ten years, in line with the national trend, there has been in this Area an increase in the number of deaths and again the increase is mainly confined to males. In England and Wales in 1944 there were 5,331 deaths of men and 1,237 deaths of women attributable to this disease as compared with 14,820 deaths of men and 2,451 deaths of women in 1955. Thus we have something like 17,000 Britons who died in 1955 of this horrible disease for which modern surgery can do very little because of the frequent unavoidable delay in diagnosis but which recent investigations suggest is preventable. No other form of Cancer has shown a similar increase over the years and from the accumulating evidence there would seem to be no doubt that if the population at large refrained from smoking cigarettes, the mortality from Lung Cancer would drop. According to the statisticians one out of every 11 male heavy smokers aged 25 will ultimately die of Cancer of the Lungs. Unfortunately, the habit is so firmly ingrained and as there is no apparent urgency the risk of producing the disease later in life is ignored or accepted philosophically.

Sweden has set an example by prohibiting advertisements for cigarettes, cigars and tobacco. It will take a long time to convince the susceptible adults of the danger of the habit of smoking and it may well be that parents and teachers will play the most important part in ultimately ridding us of this disease.

It is unfortunate that accidents not only in the streets but in our homes still continue to take their toll of life and health. Of the 20 accidents causing death during this year, eight occurred in the home (three were old people over the age of 70 years and one a child under one year of age), eight at work and four on the roads. It would seem reasonable to hope that we could eliminate this group by taking more care (particularly of the young and the old who are not so well fitted to look after themselves) and by not taking stupid risks.

One group of accidents, burns and scalds, could, with reasonable care and common sense, be prevented with greater certainty than the rest. This group which even if it does not always produce fatalities, can cause

considerable mental and physical suffering over a long period. By statute, electric fires, gas fires and oil heaters sold after 1st October, 1954, must be guarded, but no legislation covers open fires or fires purchased before that date. Anything which would encourage a demand for fire-guards and also for garments made from non-inflammable fabrics should be considered as a worthwhile proposition.



## II. HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

### 1. Staff of Public Health Department

*Medical Officer of Health and County Area Medical Officer for Consett and Stanley Urban and Lanchester Rural District :*

S. LUDKIN, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

*Chief Sanitary Inspector :*

H. WALTON, M.S.I.A., M.INST.R.A., Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Meat and Food Inspectors.

*Additional Sanitary Inspectors :*

W. TELFORD, M.S.I.A., Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Meat and Food Inspectors.

T. E. HODGSON, M.S.I.A., Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Meat and Food Inspectors.

R. EMERSON, M.S.I.A., Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Meat and Food Inspectors. (Terminated his appointment 28th February, 1955).

C. E. DAVISON, M.S.I.A., Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Meat and Food Inspection. (Appointed 21st March, 1955).

*Rodent Officer and Market Inspector :*

S. ROBINSON.

*Clerical Staff :*

MISS P. E. BARROW, MRS. E. WINTER, MISS R. MAUDLIN.

### 2. Laboratory Facilities

These continue to be provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Newcastle, under the direction of Dr. R. Norton.

All specimens for animal inoculation are sent to the laboratory attached to the General Hospital, Newcastle.

The service of the Public Health Laboratory has continued to be used extensively by General Practitioners.

Year						Specimens Submitted	Positive
1947	...	...	...	...	...	111	32
1948	...	...	...	...	...	54	18
1949	...	...	...	...	...	71	14
1950	...	...	...	...	...	99	35
1951	...	...	...	...	...	64	22
1952	...	...	...	...	...	431	83
1953	...	...	...	...	...	1,325	484
1954	...	...	...	...	...	773	175
1955	...	...	...	...	...	589	81



The following table gives particulars of specimens sent in by the Health Department and the Medical Practitioners in the Area for examination during the year. It is significant that over the last few years there has been a change in interest and emphasis from throat infections to gastro-intestinal infections.

#### Bacteriological Examinations.

	Number of Specimens Submitted	Positive
<b>Faeces :</b>		
(a) Enteric Fever ... ..	205	—
(b) Dysentery ... ..		32
(c) Food Poisoning ... ..		—
(d) Other Organisms... ..		2
<b>Swabs (Throat Nasal and Ear) :</b>		
(a) Diphtheria ... ..	6	—
(b) Haemolytic Streptococci ... ..		—
(c) Other Organisms... ..		2
<b>Sputum for Tuberculosis</b> ... ..	356	44
<b>Miscellaneous</b> ... ..	22	1
<b>Totals</b> ... ..	589	81

39 Water and 58 Ice Cream samples were submitted for bacteriological examination.

### 3. Local Health Authority Services

In accordance with the scheme adopted by the County Council on 25th February, 1948 and approved by the Minister, the Administrative County was divided into twelve Areas—each with an Area Sub-Committee—Consett and Stanley Urban and Lanchester Rural Districts comprising No. 3 Area. The Sub-Committee for this Area is composed of three members from the County Council appointed by the County Health Committee, three persons appointed by the County Health Committee not being members of the County Council or District Councils and fifteen members from the three District Councils in this Area.

As all day to day administration of the County Health Services is carried out at the County Headquarters and Area Medical Officers merely deputise for the County Medical Officer of Health at the quarterly meetings of the Area Sub-Committees, the duties and responsibilities of these Committees are few. During the year representatives of the three local authorities met a Sub-Committee of the County Health Committee and pressed for de-centralisation of certain of the services with added responsibilities for the Area Medical Officers.

The County Medical Officer of Health and his Staff have kindly provided the following statistics relating to the personal health services.

#### (a) Health Centres

There is no immediate prospect of a health centre being built in the district but the site is to be ear-marked for this purpose in the Town Map now in the course of preparation.

## (b) Clinics

### (i) *Birth Control*

Clinics for the above are held in the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Wetherall House, Medomsley Road, Consett, on alternate Friday mornings.

### (ii) *Ante-Natal*

Clinics are held as follows :—

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE, WETHERALL HOUSE, MEDOMSLEY ROAD, CONSETT—Tuesdays weekly.

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HALL, BLACKHILL—Alternate Thursday afternoons.

### (iii) *Post-Natal*

Clinics for the above are held in the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Wetherall House, Medomsley Road, Consett, on alternate Friday mornings.

### (iv) *Child Welfare*

Child Welfare Clinics have a dual medical and educational function, the emphasis at present being on (i) periodic medical supervision of all children from the age of one to five years, when special attention is given to the early detection of defects such as deafness, speech problems, spasticity, squint and dental caries ; (ii) prophylaxis against infectious diseases ; and (iii) individual and group education of parents in child care. Included in this health education programme is accident prevention, advice on behaviour difficulties with special consideration given to premature babies, illegitimate, deprived or neglected infants and members of problem families. These services should supplement and not replace the General Practitioners' Service.

Clinics are held as follows :—

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE, WETHERALL HOUSE, MEDOMSLEY ROAD, CONSETT—Alternate Wednesdays, Friday afternoons weekly.

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HALL, BLACKHILL—Alternate Thursday afternoons.

### (v) *Artificial Sunlight*

Clinics for the above are held in the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Wetherall House, Medomsley Road, Consett, on Tuesday and Friday afternoons weekly.

### (vi) *Immunisation*

Immunisation has been carried out at :—

- (a) Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics throughout the Area and
- (b) By General Practitioners by personal arrangement with parents.

### (c) Nursing in the Home and Midwifery Services

These services have been under the direct administration of the County Council since 1st April, 1954, when the employees of the County Nursing Association were transferred to the County Council's employ. In the meantime, the Superintendent of the Nursing Service has also been appointed Supervisor of the Midwives. All nursing requisites are held by the Central Store, Durham, and are sent out to the various patients when requests are received.

The following is a summary of the work carried out :—

							Cases	Visits
Medical	...	...	...	...	...	...	170	10,221
Surgical	...	...	...	...	...	...	199	6,423
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	1,205
Totals							390	17,849*

\* Included in these totals are 196 cases 65 years and over and 52 cases five years and under, with visits 7,708 and 533 respectively.

The six County Midwives also carried out the following work :—

							Cases Attended
Maternity and Midwifery	...	...	...	...	...	...	312

### (d) Health Visitor Service

There are six Health Visitors in the Consett Urban District, the following domiciliary visits being made during the year :—

Maternity and Child Welfare	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,245
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,210
Mental Deficiency	...	...	...	...	...	...	314
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	704
General Health	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Aged People	...	...	...	...	...	...	17

Unfortunately at present, the services of the Health Visitors are seldom used by the General Practitioners. The possibility of better liaison and co-ordination of this service with that of the Sanitary District Health Department was under consideration during the year.

### (e) Ambulance Service

The Urban District is served by the County Ambulance Depot situated at Villa Real, Consett. The establishment of personnel and vehicles at this depot is as follows :—

Driver Attendants	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Ambulances	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

The depot comes within the area served by the Consett Ambulance Control which has a staff of four clerk-telephonists who maintain a 24-hour service.

The following table gives details of the work undertaken in the Consett area during the year 1955 :—

Journeys Undertaken	Cases carried			Mileage
	Stretcher	Sitting	Total	
3,784	3,275	14,578	17,853	115,831

It should be noted that the conveyance of cases actually resident in the Urban District is not restricted to the Consett Depot but is undertaken by the unit which is most convenient at any given time.

Requests for ambulances are made to the Consett Ambulance Control (Telephone Consett 411).

#### (f) **Prevention of Illness—Care and Aftercare**

There are no voluntary District Care Committees, the Local Health Authority discharging the functions imposed by Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946. As with the other County Services all day to day administration is done centrally.

Those cases discharged from hospital and requiring further nursing are visited by the home nurse if necessary or supervised and advised by the Health Visitor if this should be requested. Nursing requisites can be hired from the Central Depot at Durham.

#### (g) **Domestic Help Service**

This service has been used even more extensively during the year than previously.

Charges are made, the amount depending on the income of the household.

At the beginning of January, 1955, 223 cases in this district were being served by a Home Help. There were 50 new cases during the year and of the total of 273 receiving the service, 224 were old age pensioners (82%), 42 were suffering from sickness, two from Tuberculosis and there were five maternity cases.

#### (h) **Occupation Centre for Mentally Handicapped Children**

A wing of the former I.D. Hospital at Villa Real converted in June, 1953, has continued to be used for mentally defective children excluded from School under Section 57 of the Education Act, 1944. Twenty children from the north-west of Durham travel daily to this centre.

### **4. Hospital Services**

The Local Hospital Services are administered by the North-West Durham Hospital Management Committee on behalf of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board. The Secretary has kindly provided the following information on the Hospitals and Clinics serving this Area.



**Maiden Law Hospital**

At 31st December, 1955, the following number of beds were available :—

Ear, Nose and Throat	...	...	...	24
Chest Unit (Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	84
Total	...	...	...	108

**Lee Hill Hospital**

This Hospital, with a complement of 307 beds (62 of which are used as Part III accommodation for the County Council) and a Medical Out-patients' Department, deals with the Chronic Sick and includes a section for Orthopaedic Tuberculosis cases.

Bed allocation is as follows :—

Orthopaedic	...	...	...	...	28
Mental	...	...	...	...	44
Chronic Sick	...	...	...	...	173
Part III Accommodation	...	...	...	...	62
Total	...	...	...	...	307

**Shotley Bridge General Hospital**

Out-patients facilities for all the Specialities exist at this Hospital. The 532 beds are allocated as follows :—

Surgical	...	...	...	...	...	121
Medical	...	...	...	...	...	98
Gynaecological	...	...	...	...	...	43
Orthopaedic	...	...	...	...	...	45
Paediatrics	...	...	...	...	...	4
Thoracic Surgery	...	...	...	...	...	113
Radiotherapy	...	...	...	...	...	50
Plastic Surgery	...	...	...	...	...	58
Total	...	...	...	...	...	532

**Richard Murray Hospital**

There are 32 Obstetric beds at this Hospital.

**Infectious Diseases Hospital**

Patients in the Area suffering from infectious diseases were admitted to the Chester-le-Street Infectious Diseases Hospital.

**Chest Clinic, Villa Real**

This clinic, operating from the converted wing of the old Infectious Diseases Hospital, provides a full chest clinic service including screening, refills, B.C.G. vaccination and resettlement sessions as follows :—

Tuesday mornings—9.15 a.m. each week	Contacts of known cases of T.B.
Wednesday mornings—9.15 a.m. each week	—Males.
Wednesday afternoons—2 p.m. each week	Artificial Pneumo thorax and Pneumo peritoneum refill.
Friday mornings—9.15 a.m. each week	Females.
Friday afternoons—2 p.m. each week	Children up to 16 years of age.

## **Venereal Diseases**

Treatment and diagnostic facilities are provided by Clinics outside the Area as follows :—

NEWCASTLE GENERAL HOSPITAL, WESTGATE ROAD, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

Males and Females :—

Monday to Friday : 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon ; 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday : 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sunday (Emergency only) : 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

DURHAM COUNTY HOSPITAL.

Females : Monday and Thursday : 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Males : Monday and Thursday : 4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

## **5. Executive Council Service**

There are 16 general medical practitioners, seven chemists and seven dentists operating in the urban district.

## **6. Old People and their Homes**

Admissions to local health authority hostels are arranged directly with the Welfare Department at Durham or occasionally after reference to the District Health Department.

In all, during the year, nine were admitted, five to the Lanchester Hostel and four to hostels outside the district. The County Council are hoping, if Ministry approval can be obtained in time, to provide accommodation during the year 1955-56 for 38 old people in new premises in the Consett Urban District.

In the case of some old people who were living alone and were finding difficulty in managing their day to day affairs, after discussion with the General Practitioners, the provision of a home help and regular visits of the health visitor was enough to ensure that they continued to live in their own homes among old friends and acquaintances and in an environment that they knew and liked. It was necessary to have four old people removed to the chronic sick wards of Lee Hill Hospital, in one case after obtaining a magistrate's order for compulsory removal and detention. This order was renewed after a period of three months because of the necessity of further institutional treatment but at the end of this latter period, the patient agreed to stay voluntarily and no further extension of the order was necessary.

## **7. Health Education**

Copies of the journal " Better Health " continue to be supplied to each school in the Area, the Members of the Health Committee, the various youth and other organisations, and for the waiting rooms of each General Practitioner's surgery. This journal, a very readable and interesting booklet, covers the whole field of health with particular reference from time to time to child health and nutrition, family matters, services provided by the local health authority, epidemiology, environmental and food hygiene, smoke abatement and home accidents. It has proved a popular and attractive means of promoting health education in the district.



In addition, both the Chief Sanitary Inspector and myself have given lectures on food hygiene and various aspects of the work of a local authority health department. We have also continued to give a series of lectures to the nursing staff in Shotley Bridge Hospital.

At the two-day Annual Show, an opportunity was taken to focus attention on the prevention of Tuberculosis and an exhibition and film show dealing with its method of spread, control and eradication was produced.

## **8. Prevention of Damage by Pests**

During the year 1,378 inspections were made to private dwellings, business premises, Local Authority's properties and agricultural premises. (See Appendix D).

The maintenance treatments of sewers and sewage disposal works were completed at two six-monthly intervals as required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. During the first treatment in April, 244 manholes were pre-baited and poisoned, and 28 were found to be infested. In the September treatment, 263 manholes were treated and 61 were found to be infested. Test-baiting of 151 manholes was carried out in September and 21 were found to be infested.

Treatments to sewage disposal works and pump houses were also carried out during each maintenance treatment to the sewers and were found to be comparatively clear of infestation. (See Appendix E.).

Thirteen food shops and food preparation rooms and seven schools were dealt with because of rat and mice infestations. Where necessary owners were asked to carry out works of repair and rat-proofing to their premises. One hundred and fifty-seven private dwellings received the usual treatment for the eradication of these pests.

Close relations have been maintained with the representatives of the Northern Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries by attendances at two Workable Area meetings at Chester-le-Street Rural District Council Offices, and a one-day refresher course at Newcastle. Visits have also been made to Consett by the Northern Area Inspector.

## **9. Disinfestation**

Fifty-three houses were treated for the eradication of bed bugs, insects, beetles, etc.

## **10. Pet Animals Act, 1951**

During the year, one licence for the keeping of pet animals was issued and three routine inspections were carried out.

### III. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### 1. Water

(a) Apart from six now relying on springs, all houses in the Consett Urban District have a supply of mains water direct to each house. Most of the samples taken from these springs show fairly constant contamination and those who find it necessary to use these supplies are constantly warned to boil all water before it is used.

DETAILS OF SPRING SUPPLIES

Ward	No. of		Type of Supply				Method of Distribution				
	Houses	Occu- pants	Public	Private	Spring	Well	Carried	Gravi- tation Piped	Pumped	House Service	
Medonsley ...	1	3	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
Elcheater ...	1	5	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Consett South	2	4	—	2	2	—	—	2	—	1	1
Leadgate ...	2	4	—	2	2	—	2	—	—	—	2
TOTALS ...	6	16	—	6	6	—	3	3	—	2	4

Durham County Water Board provides a public water supply from a catchment area around Waskerley some seven miles from Consett; reservoirs are situated at Smiddy Shaw, Waskerley Park and Hisehope, while the filtration and chlorination of this upland surface water is done at Honey Hill, Waskerley.

During the year there was a steady residual of approximately 0.1 p.p.m. of chlorine in all the daily samples tested in the Health Department offices, while all the samples submitted for more detailed bacteriological examination proved to be satisfactory, a standard which must have been very difficult to maintain in view of the tremendous problems which faced the Staff of the Board during the latter part of the year. Due to insufficient rainfall during the summer months, special emergency measures for the conservation of the grossly depleted water supplies in the reservoirs had to be instituted and it became necessary on 12th December to cut off the normal piped supplies to houses, shops, etc., and to make use of specially installed street taps for domestic water supplies in the Area. As a preliminary to ensure that other supplies to which the public might turn in desperation were safe for use, we took samples and submitted them to the Laboratory for bacteriological examination. Where these latter samples were found to be unsatisfactory, with the Council's approval, warning notices were erected at these sites drawing the public's attention to the unsuitability of the supply for drinking purposes. The operation of the emergency measures was made even more difficult by the severe weather at the time, which caused freezing of the street pipes and taps. Fortunately increasing falls of rain made it possible to remove restrictions before the end of 1955. The steel and ancillary industries in Consett had a secondary supply of water derived from the neighbouring mines but builders obtained water from the River Derwent for house building and roadmaking. The future task of providing adequate water supplies both

for domestic purposes and for the rapidly expanding industries is becoming more acute year by year and is receiving the urgent and constant attention of the Water Board.

In February this year, in conjunction with the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company, they decided to take steps to bring about the construction of a large new impounding reservoir in the valley of the River Derwent near Derwent Bridge. This reservoir is expected to supply about 20,000,000 gallons per day to the two Authorities, the Board taking a half share of this yield. Once this is completed, it could afford a substantial surplus of water for many years to come although it will not remove the immediate difficulties, for the project will take seven or eight years to complete. As an immediate measure a large filtration and softening plant is also being constructed at Mainsforth Colliery for the treatment of mine water.

(b) Thirty-nine samples of water were forwarded to the Bacteriologist for examination. The results, graded in accordance with the Ministry of Health Report, "The Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies, 1949," are as follows :—

	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Total
Public Water Supply ...	5	1	—	—	6
Other Sources of Supply (Springs, Wells, etc.)	3	2	3	25	33
Totals ...	8	3	3	25	39

The Board laid the following lengths of main : 1,718 yards of 3" main, 353 yards of 4" main, and 1,598 yards of 6" main during the year 1955.

## 2. Drainage and Sewage

Sewer extensions have been carried out for the development of the various housing estates. The construction of the sewer from a new housing estate at Gloucester Road, Delves Lane, discharging to the sewage works at Knitsley, has now been completed.

Plans and estimates for new sewage works at Knitsley have been submitted to the Ministry.

Appendix C indicates the number and sites of sewage works, also the number of properties draining there together with the population which they serve. It will be observed that both Westwood and Knitsley Sewage Works are overloaded.

## 3. Atmospheric Pollution

This is one of our great problems because of the unfortunate siting of one of the main industries, upon which the life of Consett depends, to the windward side of the town. The problems of atmospheric pollution, domestic as well as industrial, are of course ones which cannot be solved overnight and will entail expense and involve co-operation and sympathetic understanding from all those concerned. Over the year there

has been very close and friendly contact between the Department and the Medical Officer of Consett Iron Company Limited, when opportunities were taken to discuss in detail the extent and the type of pollution caused by the industry. Five atmospheric deposit gauges and five sulphur dioxide recorders were sited around the town and the results for the last 20 months in the case of the former and the last 12 months in the case of the latter have been recorded. Pollution figures to be of any significance must be studied over long periods, nevertheless, indications based on the data already obtained, should be of considerable value once Government policy as portrayed in the imminent Clean Air Act is known.

#### 4. Sanitary Conveniences

During the year, four conversions of earth closets to W.Cs. were carried out.

The types of closet in use in the Council's Area are as follows :—

Water-closets	...	...	...	12,911
Ash-closets	...	...	...	123
Privy Middens	...	...	...	40

Of the remaining ash-closets and privy middens, 56 are in such a situation that it is impossible to connect them with a sewer, while 39 are part of slum properties which we hope will be demolished within the next few years.

#### 5. Housing

##### (a) General

During the year, the following Council houses were erected :—

Locality	Two Bedroomed	Three Bedroomed	Total
Moorside ... ..	22	85	107
Elcheester ... ..	2	23	25
Richard Murray ... ..	4	—	4
	28	108	136

In addition, certificates of completion were issued in relation to 35 private houses.

Since the war a total of 1,773 houses have been completed in the district :—

	Council Houses	Private
1946 ... ..	58	10
1947 ... ..	238	16
1948 ... ..	268	29
1949 ... ..	195	12
1950 ... ..	134	13
1951 ... ..	109	12
1952 ... ..	116	12
1953 ... ..	146	29
1954 ... ..	170	35
1955 ... ..	136	35
	<u>1,570</u>	<u>203</u>



## Improvement Grants

Improvement Grants as provided for by Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949, were brought into force on 1st January, 1955, and 45 preliminary applications were made during the year. Of these, 18 made official application to this Authority, 17 of which were approved.

## Medical Priority

The Council's practice of allocating a number of new houses and casual lettings to medical cases has continued and in view of our concern to reduce the incidence of Tuberculosis in the Area, all of this allocation was granted to overcrowded families or families living in insanitary circumstances who had, in addition, one or more members suffering from Tuberculosis. This year six such families were re-housed.

### (b) Insanitary Dwellings

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	249
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	1,819
(2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	376
(3) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	208

Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers...	94
--	----

Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(i) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ... ..	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	Nil

(ii) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ... ..	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	Nil

(iii) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	5

(iv) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	3
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..	Nil
(v) Number of houses closed by Informal Action ... ..	Nil

The survey of all sub-standard houses in the district was completed at the beginning of the year. At the suggestions of the Committee these were listed in order of priority and after consideration by the Council it was agreed that all should be dealt with by demolition or closing within the next five years and the worst as soon as possible.

## 6. Factories

Two hundred and forty-three visits were made to factories in which persons were employed. (See Appendix F).

**Outworkers.** Only one person was notified as being an outworker.



## 7. General Inspections

Analysis of inspections and notices served under the Public Health and Housing Acts :—

	Inspec- tions	No. of INFORMAL Notices served	No. of STATU- TORY Notices served	Defects remedied after Notice
Housing :				
Public Health and Housing Acts...	1,819	356	2	286
Sanitary Conveniences :				
Insufficient ... ..	—	—	—	—
Defective ... ..	91	31	—	30
Water Supply and Samples ... ..	94	14	—	5
Food Premises :				
Ice Cream Vehicles ... ..	8	—	—	—
Ice Cream Samples and Retailers ... ..	58	2	—	2
Grocer/General Dealers ... ..	265	71	—	58
Confectioners ... ..	47	10	—	7
Food Manufacturing Premises (Section 14) ... ..	241	20	—	19
Bakehouses ... ..	56	11	—	11
Greenfruit ... ..	23	3	—	3
Wet and Fried Fish Shops ... ..	56	8	—	8
Catering Establishments ... ..	86	24	—	21
Drainage ... ..	339	81	—	80
Private Slaughterhouses ... ..	1,882	7	—	7
Tents, Vans, Sheds ... ..	29	3	—	2
Factories and Workplaces ... ..	243	3	—	2
Keeping of Animals ... ..	38	1	—	1
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles ... ..	310	261	—	260
Foul Conditions ... ..	43	9	—	9
Smoke Nuisances ... ..	143	4	—	3
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act ... ..	1,420	67	—	67
Cinemas ... ..	9	—	—	—
Pet Stores ... ..	3	—	—	—
Petroleum and Carbide ... ..	97	9	—	8
Interviews ... ..	180	—	—	—
Hotels, Inns and Public Houses ... ..	62	60	—	46
Dairies and Milk Shops ... ..	23	2	—	2
Market :				
Food Stalls ... ..	113	20	—	16
Fruiterers ... ..	135	15	—	8
Miscellaneous ... ..	164	40	—	38
Infectious Diseases ... ..	51	—	—	—
Marine Stores... ..	3	—	—	—
Ice Cream Manufacturers ... ..	40	3	—	3
Shops Act ... ..	2	—	—	—
Number of Houses made fit ... ..	94	—	—	—
Totals ... ..	8,267	1,135	2	902

## IV. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### (a) General

One thousand, one hundred and eighty six inspections were made to premises in which food was manufactured, sold or distributed and on the whole conditions were found to be satisfactory. Appendix G shows the various types of food establishments visited and the circumstances found which warranted notices being served on the owner or occupier to conform with the appropriate Acts and Bylaws.

Public houses, inns and hotels were visited regularly and in many of these establishments, works of improvement have been carried out particularly in respect of hot water supplies, sinks, extra sanitary conveniences, re-decoration of cellars and public rooms, and better hygienic methods in washing and handling of drinking glasses. Sixty informal notices regarding non-compliance with food hygiene legislation were served, and of these, 40 were remedied at the end of the year.

### (b) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

The following were on the register at the 31st December, 1955 :—

Distributors ...	...	...	...	...	...	77
------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

### (c) Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

The following licences were issued during the year under review :—

Dealers' Licence to use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested"						
with regard to raw milk	...	...	...	...	...	5
Supplementary Licences (Tuberculin Tested Milk)	...	...	...	...	...	2

### (d) Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Regulations, 1949

The following licences were issued during the year under review :—

Dealers' Licence to use the special designation "Pasteurised"	...	38
Dealers' Licence to use the special designation "Sterilised"	...	36
Dealers' Licence to use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised)"	...	30
Dealers' Supplementary Licence to use the special designation "Pasteurised"	...	1
Dealers' Supplementary Licence to use the special designation "T.T. (Pasteurised)"	...	1
Dealers' Supplementary Licence to use the special designation "Sterilised"	...	1

### (e) Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Routine inspections (1,186) were carried out at all premises used for the manufacture, sale and storage of food.

The following premises were registered under the Act :—

Ice Cream manufacture	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ice Cream Sale and Storage	...	...	...	...	...	119
Preparation or Manufacture of Sausages, Potted or Pressed Food	...	...	...	...	...	35

In addition there are the following premises :

Bakehouses ... ..	13
Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars ... ..	17
Shops :—	
General Dealers ... ..	90
Grocers ... ..	43
Green Fruit ... ..	24
Confectionery ... ..	28
Wet Fish Shops ... ..	9
Fried Fish and Chip Shops ... ..	14
Licensed Premises (Hotels, Public Houses, Inns) ... ..	76
Miscellaneous ... ..	2

Appendix G gives the number of notices served and the defects remedied.

#### (f) Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 and 1948

All premises used for the manufacture and storage of ice cream were regularly inspected and a very high standard of hygiene has been maintained. Periodic sampling provided the following satisfactory results.

Ice Cream Sample Results :—

						No. of Samples
Grade I ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	56
Grade II ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	2
Grade III ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	—
Grade IV ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	—
Total ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	58

#### (g) Milk Sampling

Nine samples of milk were taken and the following results obtained :—

Type of Sample	Methylene Blue		Phos- phatase		Bio- logical		Tur- bidity	
	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.
Tuberculin Tested ... ..	3							
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	1		1					
Pasteurised ... ..	1		1					
Undesignated ... ..	3	1						
Sterilised ... ..							1	

Another step was taken to eradicate a source of Tuberculous infection in the community by incorporating the district in a "Specified Area" in which all milk sold by retailers must be "specially designated," i.e., either from Tuberculous-free herds or heat-treated in such a way that any Tubercle Bacilli which may be present would be killed. The Order came into operation on 6th December, 1955.

(h) **Meat and Other Foods**

(i) **SLAUGHTERHOUSES**—Ten privately owned slaughterhouses are in use throughout the district and are situated in Consett, Blackhill and Shotley Bridge. One thousand eight hundred and eighty-two visits were made for the purposes of post mortem and ante mortem inspection, and 100% inspection of all dressed carcasses was obtained. Details of carcasses and their organs which were condemned are given in Appendix H.

Condemned meats are stained in accordance with the Ministry's recommendations and disposal is arranged by a by-product firm on Tyneside who specialise in this type of work.

(ii) **FATSTOCK GUARANTEE SCHEME**—Two of the Sanitary Inspectors are Certifying Officers for the grading of pigs under this scheme and three slaughterhouses which have been approved by the Ministry are used as dead-weight certification centres. Seven hundred and sixty-eight pigs were graded and certified throughout the year.

Altogether 6,928 animals were slaughtered during the year.

	Animals slaughtered from Collecting Centres	Animals slaughtered as Casualties
Bulls ... ..	1	—
Bullocks ... ..	355	—
Cows ... ..	8	—
Heifers ... ..	952	—
Calves ... ..	27	—
Sheep ... ..	3,269	8
Pigs ... ..	2,305	3
Totals ... ..	6,917	11

(iii) Food found to be unfit for human consumption :—

764 tins Fruit	8 jars Jam
224 „ Tomatoes	5 „ Sandwich Spread
190 „ Vegetables	4 „ Beetroot
173 „ Meat	2 „ Salad Cream
72 „ Milk	2 „ Fruit
34 „ Fish	2 „ Meat Paste
27 „ Soup	1 jar Ginger
14 „ Meat Paste	1 „ Ox Tongue Spread
6 „ Corned Beef	16 pkts. Cheese Spread
5 „ Ham	6 „ Suet
4 „ Pudding	4 „ Corn Flakes
4 „ Jam	1 pkt. Biscuits
2 „ Bournvita	1 „ Quaker Oats
1 tin Spaghetti	1 box Cheese Spread
1 „ Fruit Juice	1 b'tle Sauce
1 „ Salmon Steak	1,362 lbs. 4 ozs. Cooked Ham
1 „ Chutney	127 lbs. 4 ozs. Sausage
1 „ Nescafe	76 lbs. Sultanas
1 „ Cream	35 „ Roast Pork
1 „ Chicken	34 lbs. 13 ozs. Bacon
16 jars Pickles	14 lbs. 5 ozs. Chopped Pork
	4 „ Chicken

**(i) Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 and Amendment Act, 1954**

There were 49 licensed slaughtermen on the register at the end of the year.

**(j) Market Square**

Saturday is the main trading day with some 33 stalls in use. There are confectionery, grocery, greengrocery and ice cream stalls. During week-days, a confectionery and a greengrocery stall are placed for trading purposes.



## V. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

There was a considerable increase in the number of confirmed cases during the year as compared with 1954 (920 as against 379), due almost essentially to a measles epidemic which occurred at the beginning of the year.

For analysis of notified and confirmed cases of notifiable diseases see Appendix B.

### Communicable Diseases in Hospitals

Each Consultant has been designated Medical Officer for his own Department so far as the control of infection is concerned, and the Medical Advisory Committee acts as the Control of Infection Committee.

During the year all infectious diseases needing hospitalisation were admitted to Chester-le-Street Infectious Diseases Hospital.

### Notifiable Diseases reported during the year 1955

The following table gives particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) in the Area during the year :—

Diseases				Total Number of Cases Notified	Total Number of Cases Confirmed	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	14	14	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	23	23	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	773	771	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	24	24	—	2*
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	1	1	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	30	33	1	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	49	23	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	4	4	4	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	2	2	—	—
Totals	...	...	...	920	895	7	2

\* Notified Cases.

**Scarlet Fever.** There were 14 cases notified compared with 15 last year. This, however, is no indication of the incidence of the causative organism in the community.

The infections were mild in type, none were admitted to hospital and there were no deaths.

**Measles.** During the year there was an outbreak of Measles which slowly spread throughout the district during the months of January to May. Approximately 100 were affected in each annual age group up to the age of four years, with about 200 in the fifth and 200 in the sixth year age groups.



**Whooping Cough.** Twenty-three cases were notified throughout the Area, 107 less than in the previous year. While it is believed that a number of vaccines are beneficial in preventing this disease, the results of controlled experiments are awaited before any County Council policy about general immunisation against the disease is to be decided. It is a potentially dangerous disease to which infants are particularly vulnerable and a number of General Practitioners in the Area are in my mind very wisely immunising selected children.

**Diphtheria.** No cases of this disease were notified. While the annual incidence of cases and the number of deaths from diphtheria has diminished dramatically since the commencement of immunisation, it is important to ensure that all children continue to be adequately immunised against diphtheria, and in particular to secure immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. Unfortunately the percentage of those immunised under one year is regrettably low. While parents in this district are always very ready to have their children immunised at school, there appears to be a reluctance to have the pre-school children taken either to the Clinic or the General Practitioner for the necessary immunisation procedure. In view of the fact that our school schemes are only arranged every four years, a large number of unimmunised children start school during this period, and these would be exposed to considerable risk should an epidemic occur. At the end of the year, only 45.7% of the children under five years of age had been immunised. 53.1% of school children could be considered to have adequate immunity.

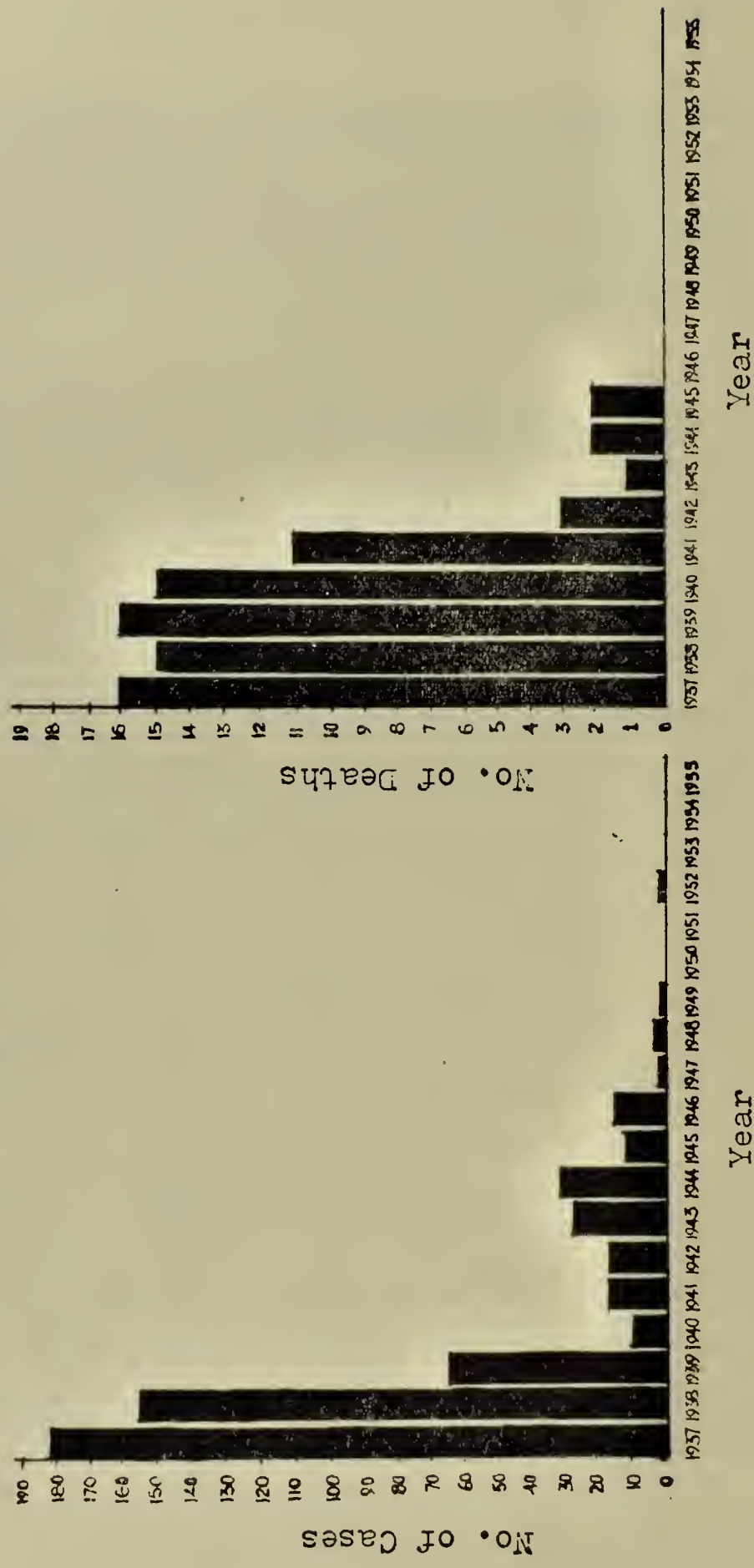
The total numbers (all age groups) immunised during the year were as follows :—

Primary Injections	...	...	...	356
Boosters...	...	...	...	238

Number of cases and deaths from Diphtheria since 1937 are as follows:—

	No. of Cases					No. of Deaths
1937	...	...	...	...	180	15
1938	...	...	...	...	154	14
1939	...	...	...	...	73	11
1940	...	...	...	...	10	3
1941	...	...	...	...	18	1
1942	...	...	...	...	18	2
1943	...	...	...	...	29	2
1944	...	...	...	...	33	—
1945	...	...	...	...	13	—
1946	...	...	...	...	14	—
1947	...	...	...	...	1	—
1948	...	...	...	...	2	—
1949	...	...	...	...	1	—
1950	...	...	...	...	—	—
1951	...	...	...	...	—	—
1952	...	...	...	...	1	—
1953	...	...	...	...	—	—
1954	...	...	...	...	—	—
1955	...	...	...	...	—	—

# NUMBER OF CASES AND DEATHS FROM DIPHTHERIA SINCE THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PRESENT URBAN DISTRICT



**Poliomyelitis.** No cases were notified during the year.

**Food Poisoning.** Twenty-three cases of Food Poisoning were notified in the district, four during the first quarter, two during the second, seven during the third, and ten during the fourth quarter of the year. Of the eight isolated cases of infection notified, the causal organism was identified in only one case. The remainder of those notified occurred in four distinct outbreaks, three limited to family units, while the fourth, explosive in nature, affected six people. One of the latter was admitted to hospital because of the severity of the symptoms. Unfortunately in none of these outbreaks was a causal organism isolated.

**Dysentery.** During the year, 33 cases were notified. Twenty-four were involved in six family outbreaks, the rest being isolated cases. The disease was usually mild in nature with clinical recovery in a few days, but the difficulty experienced with odd persistent excreters, particularly among schoolchildren, could only be dealt with by impressing upon those affected the importance of personal hygiene. There is no doubt whatsoever that there is a large reservoir of infection throughout the district in the form of symptomless carriers and convalescent excreters. While early diagnosis and adequate treatment are of course necessary, control of the disease in a community depends on the clean habits of the individuals.

We have had at all times willing and ready co-operation from all General Practitioners, Staffs of schools and the Divisional Education Officer.

**Smallpox.** No cases of this disease occurred in the Area during the year under review, but as usual, I wish to add the reminder of the ever present possibility of its importation into the Country and the necessity of being prepared to meet this eventuality.

The value of vaccination in preventing deaths from Smallpox has long been well established, yet the practice of vaccination commenced to decline in 1898 with a further decline since it became entirely optional at the inception of the National Health Service Act. In 1903, 75% of the infants in England and Wales were vaccinated; in 1936 it had dropped to 39%, while in 1949, the acceptance rate for primary vaccination in those under one year, was 28%. In Consett Urban District percentages for 1949 to 1955 are 0.83%, 6.8%, 11.0%, 14.6%, 24.0%, 19.5% and 25.5%. (203 were vaccinated and 29 re-vaccinated during 1955).

The low vaccination acceptance rate although increasing slightly, can only be regarded with grave concern since the infection introduced into the Country may be carried just as easily to Consett as to any other part of the Country.

A pamphlet regarding vaccination is sent from the County Health Department to parents when their children attain the age of three months and the Health Visiting Staff are provided with details of children vaccinated in order that they can visit those not protected.

I would again urge all mothers of infants to make arrangements with their General Medical Practitioner to have this done.

**Tuberculosis.** It is with great pleasure and satisfaction I now report only three deaths from Tuberculosis as compared with ten last year—the lowest number ever recorded in the District. The number of new notifications is also at a record low level this year, but we must not as a result become complacent for it will be noted that of the new cases, nine were under the age of twenty and two under the age of ten years.

While the institution of surgical measures and the introduction of new drugs has helped to accelerate the falling death-rate, remedial methods adopted after the disease has developed will never, on their own, rid us of this incapacitating condition.

If we are to ensure that preventive action keeps pace with recent advances in treatment, we must keep foremost in our minds :—

- (1) that a person has to be infected by the tubercle bacillus before the disease can develop ;
- (2) that sputum, saliva and milk are the vehicles by which the infection is mainly transmitted ;
- (3) that certain age groups are more likely to develop the disease should they be infected ;
- (4) that continuous and frequent exposure to the germs over a period particularly during a phase of debility may break down even a strong natural or acquired resistance ;
- (5) infectious or undiagnosed cases are frequently the reservoirs of infection ; and
- (6) early diagnosis and treatment are very important.

That we are still being notified of new cases means that a reservoir of infection still exists and that there must be many infectious cases who have not yet been persuaded to undergo X-ray examination.

After December, all the milk retailed in the Area was either heat-treated in such a way that any tubercle bacilli present are killed or comes from herds proved to be free from Tuberculosis infection. It therefore remains for us to induce every inhabitant to be X-rayed and then if care is also exercised by known Tuberculosis cases to prevent spread of infection, newly discovered cases are adequately treated immediately and susceptible children and adults protected by B.C.G. vaccination, most of our troubles in this field should be over.

## 1. Statistics

					Puimmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
(a) No. of new cases notified during the year :—							
Males ...	...	...	...	...	8	2	10
Females ...	...	...	...	...	13	3	16
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals...	...	...	...	...	21	5	26
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>



					Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
(b) No. of deaths registered :—							
Males ...	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
Females	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	...	...	3	—	3

(c) No. of cases on the Tuberculosis Register :—							
Males ...	...	...	...	...	192	92	284
Females	...	...	...	...	202	81	283
Totals...	...	...	...	...	394	173	567

There were 26 new cases notified during the year as compared with 38 last year. In March and November the Mass X-Ray Unit visited the district 4334 were X-rayed, when 19 cases of tuberculosis (6 active and 13 inactive) were discovered.

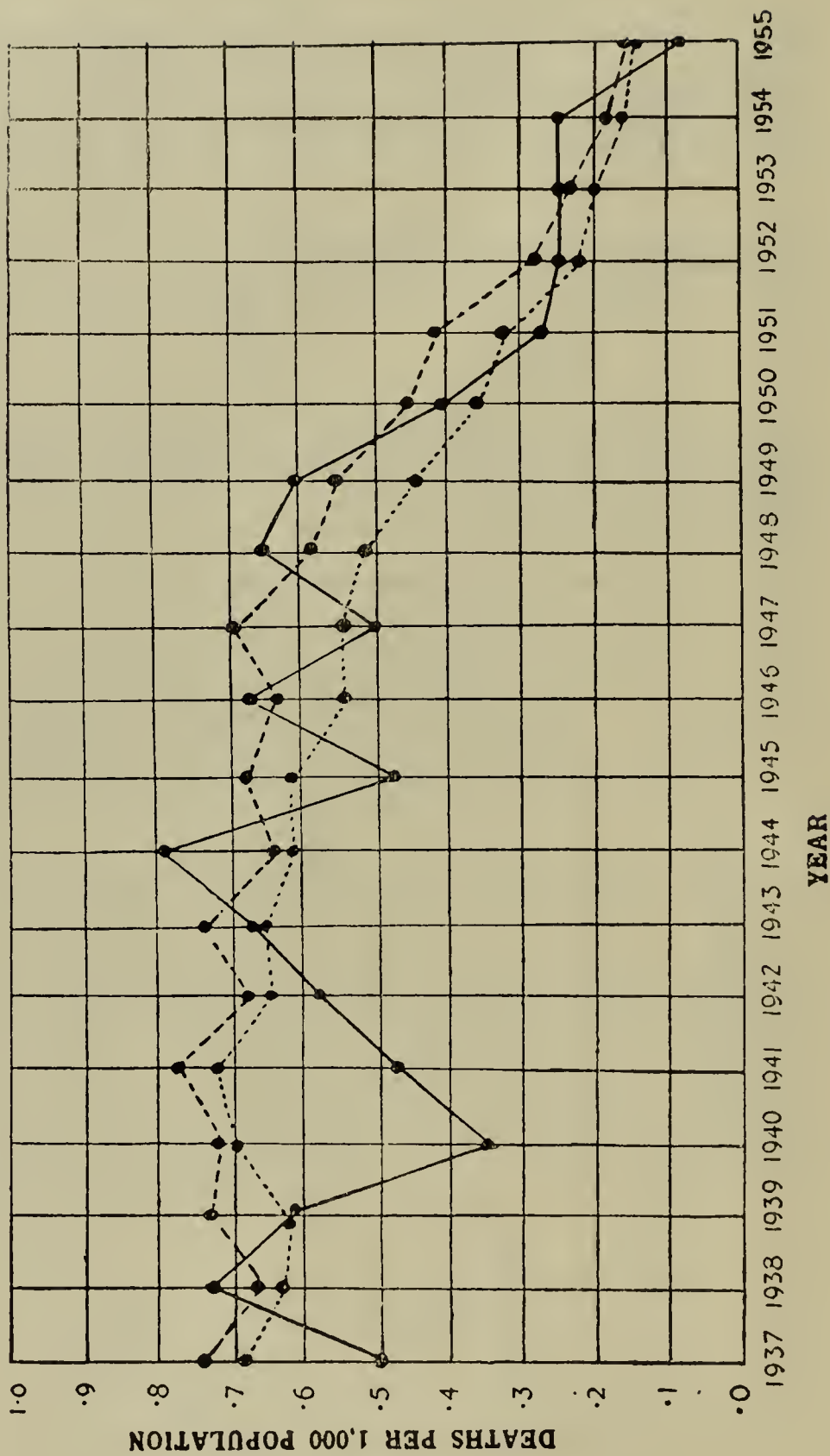
Age distribution of new cases and deaths are as follows :—

Age Period		C A S E S				D E A T H S			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years									
0- 4 ...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 ...	...	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
11-15 ...	...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
16-20 ...	...	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
21-25 ...	...	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
26-30 ...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
31-35 ...	...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
36-40 ...	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
41-45 ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
46-50 ...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
51-55 ...	...	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
56-60 ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
61-65 ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
66-70 ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
71-75 ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
76-80 ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...		8	13	2	3	3	—	—	—
		21		5		3		—	
		26				3			



# COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS MORTALITY RATES 1937-1952

CONSETT U. D. —————  
 DURHAM COUNTY - - - - -  
 ENGLAND AND WALES .....



## **Tuberculosis Services in the Area**

(i) At the Chest Clinic at Villa Real, special sessions have been arranged for contacts of known cases of Tuberculosis, new and old cases and for artificial pneumothorax and pneumoperitoneum refills.

(ii) Those needing sanatorium treatment are in the main admitted to Maiden Law Tuberculosis Unit ; those needing major surgical treatment being transferred to Seaham Hall, Poole or Wolsingham Sanatorium. During the year 34 cases of Tuberculosis were admitted for hospital treatment.

(iii) There were 567 patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year. Most newly notified cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis are now registered by the Ministry of Labour and National Service as disabled persons and before being allowed to return to work, the patient is assessed at the clinic, and if appropriate a course of industrial rehabilitation at the Felling Unit is arranged by the Disablement Resettlement Officer, after which in most cases suitable employment is found. All these patients are regularly supervised, a very close co-operation existing between the D.R.O. and the Chest Physician. During the year four patients attended the industrial rehabilitation unit and four were re-trained for new jobs.

(iv) After-care responsibility rests entirely with the Durham County Council, all day to day administration being carried out centrally. Nursing requisites are stored in Durham.

(v) Six new Council houses have been allocated to potentially infectious Tuberculosis cases who were living in overcrowded circumstances.

## VII. ANNUAL REPORT OF RAINFALL, ETC., 1955

The Surveyor and Engineer has kindly provided me with the following information:—

Month (1955)	Rainfall in ins.		No. of days rain fell		Heaviest Daily Fall	
	West- wood	Crook- hall	West- wood	Crook- hall	Ins.	Date
January ...	3.66	2.25	12	14	1.40	15th
February ...	2.54	2.95	21	21	1.01	22nd
March ...	1.99	2.09	13	14	0.86	23rd
April ...	0.29	0.43	7	8	0.11	23rd
May ...	1.89	2.00	22	19	0.53	1st
June ...	2.42	2.74	13	15	1.43	7th
July ...	1.04	1.21	3	3	0.61	3rd
August ...	1.07	0.78	9	8	0.61	21st
September ...	1.04	0.95	14	12	0.23	4th
October ...	1.66	1.82	13	13	0.57	25th
November ...	1.57	1.90	15	14	0.55	3rd
December ...	3.46	3.23	20	18	0.59	9th
	22.63	22.35	162	159		

The heaviest daily rainfall of 1955 was on 7th June, 1955, and the wettest month was January, when 3.66 inches of rain fell.

Rainfall for 1955 was the lightest recorded since 1929, the longest period without rain being the 4th to the 31st July, 1955, a period of 28 days.

The total hours of sunshine recorded by the Forestry Commission at Chopwell for 1955 was 1,533 hours as compared with 1,146 hours during 1954. This is the largest number of sunshine hours recorded during one year since records were kept in 1944.

# APPENDIX A

Year	No. of Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified										Bowel Complaints				Tuber- culosis				
	Popu- lation	Deaths	Death Rate	Live Births	Birth Rate	Infan- tile Deaths	Infant Death Rate	Neo- Natal Deaths	Neo- Natal Death Rate	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diph- theria	Polio- myeli- tis		Dysentery		Food Poisoning	
																Enteric	Enteric		
1937	37,280	448	12.0	677	18.1	48	70.9	—	—	—	147	—	180	—	3	—	—	29	24
1938	37,340	435	11.5	670	17.9	36	53.7	—	—	—	169	—	154	—	19	1	—	23	26
1939	37,420	453	12.1	705	18.8	51	72.3	—	—	6	54	34	73	—	—	3	—	35	14
1940	37,040	469	12.6	676	18.2	40	59.1	—	—	1,243	28	196	10	—	—	47	—	25	14
1941	37,040	409	11.0	639	17.2	42	66.9	—	—	376	47	120	18	—	—	—	—	26	13
1942	36,210	433	11.9	671	18.5	40	59.6	—	—	299	83	75	18	2	—	—	—	17	22
1943	35,320	432	12.2	602	17.0	28	46.5	—	—	291	62	72	29	—	—	—	—	31	12
1944	35,050	434	12.0	732	20.8	32	43.0	—	—	306	15	65	33	1	—	—	—	45	32
1945	35,310	435	12.3	694	19.6	34	48.9	—	—	117	48	11	13	—	—	1	—	34	20
1946	36,760	415	11.2	751	20.4	30	39.5	—	—	218	41	108	14	—	—	—	—	33	14
1947	37,040	415	11.2	780	21.0	28	35.8	—	—	385	64	29	1	7	—	—	2	43	16
1948	38,820	417	10.7	737	18.9	41	55.6	—	—	522	111	104	2	—	5	—	—	53	19
1949	38,900	463	11.9	708	18.2	29	40.9	17	24.01	142	52	19	1	—	—	—	—	40	9
1950	39,130	482	12.3	684	17.4	30	43.8	15	23.39	375	59	212	—	2	3	—	1	79	12
1951	39,020	435	11.1	659	16.8	23	34.9	17	25.79	740	24	85	—	—	5	—	1	62	14
1952	38,840	427	10.9	647	16.6	17	26.2	10	15.45	281	61	143	1	2	21	—	1	39	8
1953	38,740	413	10.6	650	16.7	20	30.76	10	15.38	332	45	244	—	2	13	—	255	32	8
1954	38,830	477	12.2	587	15.1	19	32.3	11	18.7	114	15	130	—	4	64	—	32	27	11
1955	38,770	419	10.8	627	16.1	19	30.3	12	19.1	771	14	23	—	—	33	—	23	21	5

**APPENDIX B**  
**ANALYSIS OF THE NOTIFIED AND CONFIRMED CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES**

Name of Disease	Under 1 Year		1		2		3		4		5		6-10		11-15		16-20		21-35		36-45		46-65		66 and Over		Age not Known		Totals	
	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.	N.	C.
Scarlet Fever							3	3	2	2	4	4	5	5														14	14	
Whooping Cough ...	3	3	2	2	1	1	4	4	2	2	6	6	4	4			1	1										23	23	
Measles ...	23	23	80	80	106	106	105	104	123	123	190	190	144	143	2	2												773	771	
Pneumonia													3	3	1	1			4	4	4	4	10	10	2	2		24	24	
Meningococcal Infection													1	1														1	1	
Dysentery ...	1	1	2	3		1	2	3	3	3	2	3	7	7	2	2	1		5	5	5	4	1					30	33	
Food Poisoning			3	1	1		4	2	1	1	3	2	7	3			2	1	9	3	6	4	12	5	1	1		49	23	
Erysipelas ...																					1	1	1	1				2	2	
Puerperal Pyrexia ...																			4	4							4	4		
	27	27	87	86	108	108	118	116	131	131	205	205	171	166	5	5	4	2	22	16	16	13	23	17	3	3		920	895	



**APPENDIX C**  
**DETAILS OF SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS IN THE URBAN DISTRICT**

Location of Sewage Disposal Works	Type of Treatment	Area Drained	No. of Properties Draining to Works (approx.)		Population (Approx.) for which Designed	Existing Population (Approx.)
			Houses	Bldgs.		
Westwood	Percolating Filter Treatment	Grove, Moorside, Consett; part of Castleside (Lanchester R.D.C.); Blackhill, Derwent Cottages, Medomsley, Shotley Bridge, Elcheater Allendale and Hamsterley Colliery.	7,938	293	28,700	26,698
Crookhall	do.	Part of Consett, Crookhall, part of Leadgate	1,489	43	5,500	5,231
Pont Burn	do.	Part of Leadgate, Bradley Cottages, Pont	1,387	32	4,550	4,856
Knitsley	do.	Delves, Knitsley and part of Templetown	745	9	1,500	2,607

## APPENDIX D

### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	Local Authority	Type of Property			Total
		Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural	All other (including Business & Industrial)	
I. No. of Properties in Local Authority's District ... ..	34	11,268	69	1,466	12,837
II. No. of Properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1955, as a result of :—					
(a) Notification	8	109	—	35	152
(b) Otherwise ...	26	309	20	277	632
III. No. of Properties (under II) found to be infested by rats	12	119	—	39	170
IV. No. of Properties (under II) found to be infested by mice	3	38	—	17	58
V. No. of Infested Pro- perties (under III and IV) treated by Local Authority ...	15	157	—	37	209
VI. No. of informal not- ices served under Section 4 :—					
(1) Treatment	—	14	—	3	17
(2) Structural Works (i.e., Proofing) ...	4	21	—	25	50
VII. No. of visits made by Local Authority during treatment and inspection of Properties ... ..	122	779	20	457	1,378

**APPENDIX E**  
**PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949**  
**SEWERS AND SEWAGE WORKS**

Date of Sewer Campaign	No. of Manholes treated	Showing Signs of infestation	No infestation
April, 1955 ... ..	244	28	216
September, 1955 ... ..	263	61	202
Test-baiting September, 1955 ... ..	151	21	130
Sewage Works and Buildings treated in conjunction with Sewer Campaign		Showing signs of infestation	
<b>April, 1955</b>			
Pont ... ..		Minor	
Knitsley ... ..		—	
Crookhall ... ..		Minor	
Ebchester ... ..		Minor	
Hamsterley Pump House ... ..		—	
<b>September, 1955</b>			
Pont ... ..		—	
Knitsley ... ..		Minor	
Crookhall ... ..		Minor	
Ebchester ... ..		Minor	
Hamsterley Pump House ... ..		—	

**APPENDIX F**  
**FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948**

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Prose- cutions
(1) Factories in which Sections 1/4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority ... ..	24	31	Nil	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies ... ..	101	212	3	Nil
Total ... ..	125	243	3	Nil

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences :					
Unsuitable or Defective ... ..	3	2	—	2	—
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total ... ..	3	2	Nil	2	Nil

# APPENDIX G

Premises	Structural		Cleansing and Re-decoration		Water Closets		W.C. Notices		Accumulation of Refuse		Lack of Refuse Containers		Drainage		Washing Facilities		Constant Hot Water		Towels and Soap		Food Exposure		Other Defects		Visits
	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	S	A	
Bakehouses ...	—	—	8	8	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	56
Food Manufacturers ...	1	1	11	11	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	3	3	241
Fried Fish Shops and Wet Fish Shops ...	1	1	3	3	—	—	2	2	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	56
Ice Cream Manufacturers	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40
Caterers and Snack Bars ...	5	4	7	5	—	—	—	—	4	4	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	86
Grocers & General Dealers	3	2	16	15	7	3	2	2	1	1	4	1	9	9	—	—	7	4	2	3	19	18	1	—	265
Confectioners ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	7	6	—	—	47
Greengrocers ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	23
Hotels, Inns and Public Houses ...	19	11	22	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	12	—	—	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	62
Total ...	30	20	70	64	9	5	6	5	8	8	6	3	28	26	2	2	15	9	2	3	29	27	5	4	876

\*S—Notices Served

A—Notices Abated

Notices Served ...

Defects Remedied ...

210

176

## APPENDIX H

### CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ..	1,308	8	27	3,269	2,305	—
No. Inspected ... ..	1,308	8	27	3,269	2,305	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCI						
Whole Carcasses Condemned	—	1	—	7	2	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was Condemned...	118	—	—	7	19	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuber- culosis and Cysticerci ...	9.02	1.25	—	.42	.91	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY						
Whole Carcasses Condemned	3	—	—	—	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	93	—	—	—	38	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	7.32	—	—	—	1.69	—
CYSTICERCOSIS						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally Condemned ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—











